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NEWTON ABBOT  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND THE  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR



1960

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H. M. DAVIES,  
M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
ASSISTANT COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER :  
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL.  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :  
DAWLISH U.D.C.  
NEWTON ABBOT R.D.C.  
NEWTON ABBOT U.D.C.  
TEIGNMOUTH U.D.C. AND  
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

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COUNCIL OFFICES,

KINGSTEIGNTON ROAD

NEWTON ABBOT.

NEWTON ABBOT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT - 1960

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present my report for the year ended 31st. December, 1960.

The Vital Statistics regarding Births and Deaths in the Rural District during the year do not differ materially from the rates which apply in the County as a whole. It is interesting to note that of the 356 deaths recorded 273 were aged 65 years or more and 179 were over 75 years.

Apart from the ten deaths which occurred in the first week of life, due in all but one case to prematurity, only thirteen more lives were lost before the age of 45 years. This remarkable improvement has been due to the control which has been developed and exercised over the common Infectious Diseases. In particular I refer to Diphtheria, Tuberculosis and Poliomyelitis. All of these diseases can now be brought under control and provided that complacency is avoided, there is no reason why, in the foreseeable future, these three very serious and crippling illnesses could not be completely eliminated.

Of the thirteen deaths which occurred in early adult life six were due to accidental causes, and I feel that all too little appears to be being done to reduce these numbers.

In my Annual Report for 1959, I referred to the housing





problems in this Rural District and suggested that inadequate use was being made of the existing Council houses. Those comments appeared to be favourably received by the Council at that time but little or no positive action has been taken.

Under the present arrangement it seems that once an applicant is granted the tenancy of a house he is automatically given security of tenure of that particular house for life notwithstanding the fact that he could very well do with a much smaller house once his family has grown up and gone away.

It may not be possible, or even desirable, to achieve this end by compulsion at the present time, but, if the Council is to avoid unnecessary and expensive building, it seems that every effort by persuasion and incentive should be made to reach this objective.

I should like once again to thank the Chairman, Councillors, and all members of the staff for the help and co-operation received during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health

December, 1961



## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) .....	92,650
Population Mid 1960 .....	26,060
Population 1951 Census .....	25,795
Population Administrative County of Devon .....	526,640
Rateable value as at 1st, January, 1960 .....	£265,066
Rateable Value as at 31st, December, 1960 .....	£267,269
Product of 1d. rate as at 31st, March, 1960 .....	£ 1,064

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	180	151	331
Illegitimate	9	3	12
	<u>189</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>343</u>

Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population	13.16
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population	15.27
Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	13.70
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	15.48
Live Birth rate per 1000 total population England and Wales	17.1

#### Still Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Still Birth rate per 1000 total population	0.12
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births	8.67
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births Administrative County of Devon	19.04
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births England and Wales	19.8



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## Deaths

The average age at death, from all causes, was found to be 70.53 years. It is of interest to note that the average age of all male deaths is 67.04 years and for female deaths 74.44 years.

Male	Female	Total
188	168	356

Crude Death rate per 1000 total population	13.66
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population	11.34
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	14.67
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	11.44
Death rate per 1000 total population England and Wales	11.5

## Infant Mortality

(Death of Infants under One year)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	9	1	10
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infant Mortality rate (Death of Infants under One year) per 1000 related live births	29.15
Infants Mortality rate England and Wales	21.9

## Neo-Natal Mortality

(Death of Infants under Four weeks)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	9	1	10
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neo-Natal Mortality rate (Death of Infants under Four weeks) per 1000 related live births	29.15
Neo-Natal Mortality rate England and Wales	15.6

## Peri-Natal Mortality

(Death of Infants under One week)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	9	1	10
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	- 4 -		



Peri-Natal Mortality rate (Death of Infants under One week) per 1000 related live births	29.15
Peri-Natal Mortality rate England and Wales	32.9

### Maternal Mortality

No maternal deaths occurred in the Newton Abbot Rural District during 1961. Five maternal deaths occurred within the Administrative County of Devon.

### AGE AT DEATH

	Male	Female
Infants under One week	9	1
Infants under Four weeks	—	—
Infants under One year	—	—
1 — 4	—	1
5 — 14	—	3
15 — 24	2	—
25 — 44	6	1
45 — 64	37	23
65 — 74	62	32
75 and over	72	107
	<u>188</u>	<u>168</u>

Total: 356

### CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female
All causes	188	168
Tuberculosis (other than respiratory)	1	—
Syphilitic disease	2	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	8	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	5
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	21	14
	<u>40</u>	<u>26</u>
carried forward	40	26





CAUSES OF DEATH (continued)

	Male	Female
brought forward	40	26
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	43
Coronary disease, angina	45	17
Hypertension with heart disease	5	3
Other heart disease	23	33
Other circulatory disease	7	7
Influenza	1	—
Pneumonia	7	6
Bronchitis	5	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
Congenital malformations	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	18	19
Motor vehicle accidents	5	1
All other accidents	4	—
Suicide	—	1
	<u>188</u>	<u>168</u>

Total: 356

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Male	Female	Total
Scarlet Fever	3	3	6
Whooping Cough	5	5	10
Measles	68	79	147
Pneumonia	1	—	1
Erysipelas	1	2	3
	<u>78</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>167</u>

Total: 167



## TUBERCULOSIS

Eleven cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1960. No cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. Details of the pulmonary cases are set out in the following table:-

<u>AGE PERIODS</u>			<u>CASES</u>	
			M	F
Under five years			-	-
5	-	14	-	1
15	-	24	1	2
25	-	44	-	1
45	-	64	3	2
65 and over			1	-
			5	6

Total: 11

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

Official action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951 was necessary in two cases during 1960.





NEWTON ABBOT

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1960

STAFF:

Chief Public Health Inspector

A. R. Smith, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

J. A. McPherson, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Secretary/Shorthand/Typist

Miss A. P. Clark



# Newton Abbot Rural District Council

A. R. SMITH  
Chief Public Health Inspector  
TELEPHONE NOS. 715/6

COUNCIL OFFICES,  
KINGSTEIGNTON ROAD,  
NEWTON ABBOT

## ANNUAL REPORT - 1960

### TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year ending 31st December, 1960.

The period following my appointment as Chief Public Health Inspector in April, during the year under review, has, I feel, been the most gratifying I have experienced during my fifteen years' service and I hope rewarding to the Council in what has been achieved by my Department.

Untiring and unstinted assistance has been afforded by Miss A. P. Clark who has carried out all the Shorthand/Typewriting and Secretarial duties, not only of the Public Health Department, but also those of the Treasurer's Department, throughout the whole of the year. For this I must commend her ability and efficiency.

My Assistant, Mr J. A. McPherson took up his duties with the Council on 19th April and has proved himself an able and conscientious officer worthy of the position of Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector which he now enjoys.

Apart from all aspects of day to day routine Public Health duties, we carried out 100% Meat Inspection in the Eleven Slaughterhouses and the numerous butchery premises throughout the whole district.

Controlled tipping as a means of disposal of domestic refuse was given greater attention and the need for a bulldozer was made clear by the improvement noted following the hiring of such a machine during the latter part of the year.

Under the provisions of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, the requisite Survey, Inspection and Report on all the Slaughterhouses was carried out. The slaughterhouses Report subsequently compiled from this information was approved by the Minister and a commendation was given by the Minister's Divisional Inspector.

Details of inspections made are set out in the following pages:-

### DRAINAGE:

Number of premises visited	113
Number of tests applied	28
Number of visits made	153





# FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS:

1.	<u>Inspections</u>	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
i.	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	14	875	16	-
ii.	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	142	158	-	-
iii.	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	23	40	-	-

2.	<u>Cases in which defects were found</u>	Found	Remedied	Ref. to H.M. Insp.	Ref. by H.M. Insp.	Prosecution
	<u>No. of cases in which defects were found:-</u>					
	Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-	-
	Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
	Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-	-
	Inadequate ventilation (s4)-	-	-	-	-	-
	Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	4	4	-	-	-
	Sanitary Conveniences (S7)					
	(a) insufficient	2	2	-	1	-
	(b) unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
	(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
	Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-



### FLOOD DAMAGE:

In the months of September, October and December severe flooding was experienced in various areas throughout the district. A Devon Flood Appeal was organised and sufferers were asked to apply for help from the fund to restore losses and damages incurred. Similar help was also made available through various Parish Councils.

A total of twenty-three claims amounting to £868.17s.8d. were investigated by the Public Health Department and passed to the responsible authority for consideration.

In addition to this work, owing to serious flooding, an appeal for help was received from Exmouth Urban District Council, a neighbouring authority, and this was immediately given.

### FOOD INSPECTION:

During the course of the year, the following foodstuffs have been found to be unfit for human consumption:-

- 1 Can Corned Beef
- 8 Cans Peaches
- 2 Cans Plums
- 1 Can Pineapples
- 22 Cans Prunes
- 2 Cans Oranges
- 2 Cans Pears
- 4 Cans Soup
- 1 Can Brown
- 3 Cans Evap. Milk
- 1 Can Baked Beans
- 7  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb Chocolates
- 1 Jar Marmalade
- 1 Can Rice Pudding
- 1 Can Pilchards
- 2 Cans Tomatoes
- 1 Jar Mincemeat
- 7 Boxes Chesses
- 1 Pkt Stuffing
- 1 Pkt Sugar
- 1 Pkt Weetabix
- 1 Pkt Dry Biscuits
- 1 Jar Honey
- 1 Can Chopped Pork
- 28 Bullocks and organs
- 45 Sheep and organs
- 8 Calves and organs
- 6 Pigs and organs





	CATTLE (including Cows)	CALVES	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS
NUMBER KILLED	829	224	3,256	1,437
NUMBER INSPECTED	829	224	3,256	1,437
All diseases other than Tuberculosis				
(i) Whole carcase condemned	28	8	45	6
(ii) Carcase of which some part of organ was condemned	122	8	29	31
% of animals inspected affected by disease other than Tuberculosis	18.09	7.14	2.27	2.50
Tuberculosis only				
(i) Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-
(ii) Carcase of which some part of organ was condemned	2	-	-	3
% of animals inspected affected by Tuberculosis	.22	-	-	.20
Number of cases of Cysticercus Bovis	Nil			



## FOOD INSPECTION Cont'd

### ICE CREAM:

During the year 10 premises were licenced for the sale of ice cream. There are no premises in the district where ice cream is produced and no ice cream is sold from "bulk" supplies. All the premises registered above sell only the "prepacked" product. Frequent visits are made to ensure compliance with the Hygiene Regulations emphasis being placed on the requirement that no packages are to be opened for the purpose of retail sale.

### GENERAL:

1,077 visits were made during the year to the various slaughterhouses in the district for meat inspection.

76 visits were made during the year to other food premises.

### HOUSING:

A summary of the work carried out under this heading is as given below:-

Number of additional dwellings provided by Private enterprise and brought into residential use.

(a) By new Building	103
(b) By structural sub-division	10
(c) Temporary dwellings	3
Number of dwellings inspected	165
Number of inspections made	233
Number of Informal Notices	86
Number of Statutory Notices served:	
(a) under Section 9, Housing Act, 1957	1
(b) Under Section 16, Housing Act, 1957	4
Number of dwellings rendered fit	67

### MILK AND DAIRIES (General) REGULATIONS, 1959:

27 Principal Licences were issued to Dealers authorising them to use the special designation "Pasterused/Tuberculin Tested".





## REFUSE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION:

Domestic refuse is collected throughout the Rural District covering 25 Parishes. Statistical details are given below showing operational arrangements:-

Area of District	92,650 acres
Weight of Refuse collected (Est.)	14,000 tons
Population (R. G. Est.)	26,060 persons
Weight (Cwts.) per 1,000 population per day	29.4 cwts
Number of premises from which refuse is collected	7,900
Collections made weekly (% of whole)	75%
Average haul in miles	12 miles
Kerbside Collection (% of whole)	100%
Total refuse disposed of within the Rural District	14,000
Method of Disposal	Controlled Tipping
Number of Collection Areas	48
Weekly Collection (Urbanised Areas)	6
Fortnightly Collection	18
Monthly Collection	18
Quarterly Collection	6

Arrangements made meet the requirements of the district and from time to time it is necessary to re-arrange certain of the rounds to meet requests where new development has taken place.

The tip is regularly treated to control rodent infestation and during the summer season daily treatment with insecticide is carried out to control the infestation by flies the majority of which are brought in with the refuse.

This latter has proved to be a problem of some magnitude but the method of regular daily spraying coupled with the covering of the tip surface and tipping face has produced a marked improvement.

## RODENT CONTROL:

As in previous years two treatments of the sewerage systems of the Rural District were carried out. 140 Manholes being baited and poisoned on each occasion.

In addition 150 premises were visited for rat infestation.





### SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958:

The Council was required by Section 3(1) of the above Act to review and after consultation with such organisations as appear to represent the interest concerned, to report to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food on (a) the existing and probable future requirements of their district for slaughterhouse facilities, having regard to the needs both of persons requiring the use of such facilities and of other persons; and (b) the slaughterhouse facilities which were likely to become available to meet these requirements.

The Council appointed a Sub-Committee and a meeting was held with representations of all interested organisations and other concerned in advance of the submission of the report to the Minister. The report was issued on 13th August, 1960, and, with the exception of the recommended Appointed Day for the Construction Regulations to apply in the district which was deferred some three months, was accepted by the Minister.

Licences were issued to 11 Slaughterhouse Owner/Occupier to cover the period to 31st October, 1960.

Licences were issued to 29 applicants to slaughter or stun animals in accordance with the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

### DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT - WASTE FOODS ORDER 1957:

Administration of the above order ensuring compliance with the requirements relating to Collection, Cooking and feeding of swill to pigs is under the jurisdiction of the County Council.

When requested to accept delegated powers under the Act and Order the Newton Abbot Rural District Council resolved that they would not agree to do so, but would arrange to carry out inspections from time to time and inform the County Public Health Inspector as to their findings.

### CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960:

This Act was given Royal Assent on the 29th July, 1960, and came into force on the 29th August, 1960. The first part deals with the licensing and control of caravan sites: the second part, which applies to England and Wales only, with the general control of development: and the third part deals with financial provisions, repeals and other miscellaneous matters, followed by four Schedules.

By the end of the year under review a total of sixty-one Applications for Site Licences were received, involving some several hundred caravans. Included in this total were 41 applications in respect of Permanent Residential Sites.

With regard to the provision of Fire Fighting Appliances on caravan sites, the help of the Chief Fire Officer, Devon County Council was sought and his advice was readily given. This offer arranged for every site to be inspected and consequently supplied a full report in respect of each. All the recommendations contained in these reports were embodied in the Site Licence Conditions issued to caravan site owners.



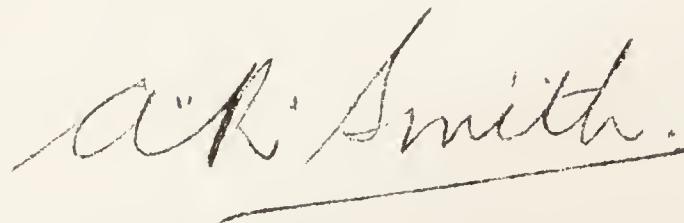
WATER SUPPLIES:

317 Public water samples were taken during the year.

239 Samples were equal to a Class I piped supply.

78 Samples were contaminated.

I should like once again to thank the Chairman, Councillors and all members of the staff for the help and co-operation received during the year.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "A.R. Smith.", with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

Chief Public Health Inspector

November, 1961.







